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Knesset to vote on Hebron pact today

Cabinet passes accord; Begin quits

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

The Knesset is expected to pass the long-awaited Hebron accord by a large majority today, due to pledges by the Labor-led opposition to lend its support to the government.

Last night, after close to 12 hours of deliberation, the cabinet approved the agreement by an 11 to 7 vote, followed immediately by the dramatic resignation of diehard opponent Science Minister Ze'ev Begin.

The Palestinian leadership approved the accord in a three-hour session in Gaza last night.

The accord was initiated at 2 a.m. yesterday by senior negotiators Dan Shomron and Saeb Erekat at the end of a meeting at the Erez junction between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, who were joined by US special Middle East Peace envoy Dennis Ross.

Leading the attack in the cabinet against the agreement were Begin and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. Begin charged that Netanyahu was ceding the historic Jewish homeland.

Assuming the Knesset completes its vote by tonight, the IDF plans to complete the pullback before Shabbat begins tomorrow afternoon. If it cannot be completed in time for Shabbat, it will continue after Shabbat is over, and be completed no later than Sunday. According to the accord, Israel is permitted 10 days for a pullback.

The accord includes not just a protocol for a Hebron pullback, but also an accompanying "US Note for the Record," which outlines both sides' future obligations. (See text, Page 4.)

For Israel, this means that it must begin immediate negotiations with the Palestinians on the establishment of the Dahanaya airport and seaport in Gaza, negotiate safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank, apparently discuss further easings of the closure, and agree to a gradual release of prisoners as called for in the Oslo 2 agreement.

Israel also commits to resume final status talks within two months. Those talks are scheduled to conclude in May 1999.

Moreover, Israel is obligated to make the first of three pullbacks beyond Hebron during the first week of March. In an accompanying US letter of assurances to Israel written



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu takes the phone from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to speak to President Bill Clinton early yesterday morning at Erez Checkpoint. Both spoke to Clinton, Jordan's King Hussein, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to thank them for their roles in brokering the Hebron agreement.

by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the US says that Israel must complete the crucial third pullback from the West Bank within a year from the first pullback but "no later" than "mid-1998." The timetable was brokered by Jordan's King Hussein and the US. A second US letter to the Palestinians has yet to be disclosed, but US officials say it is similar.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office say that, in a letter that Ross sent Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh this week, the term "mid-1998" refers to the end of August 1998. In the Oslo 2 accord, the pullbacks were to be completed by September 1997, and officials in the Prime Minister's Office voiced great satisfaction not just for obtaining more time but also since the US makes clear in the Christopher letter that the scope of the pullbacks will be implicitly determined by Israel and is not the basis of negotiations. (See analysis.)

Christopher's letter includes the point that he has advised "Arafat of US views on Israel's process of redeploying its forces, designating specified military locations" (See text, Page 4).

In general, Netanyahu insisted the agreement is better than the previous accord for a few reasons. First, in terms of Hebron, it creates an "adjacent area" of a few hundred meters around the Jewish quarter where Palestinians will not be permitted to carry rifles, which Israel fears could be used for sniping against Jews. The premier insists that the municipal provisions for the Jewish settlers will also allow the community to exist under better conditions.

Secondly, the agreement focuses on "reciprocity," although it is clear that there is no linkage between the Palestinian and Israeli obligations.

The Palestinians undertook to "complete the process of revising" their 1964 Charter, which calls for Israel's destruction. Moreover, the PA must cut the size of its police forces in keeping with the Oslo Accords. Otherwise, it reaffirms the Oslo principles, which include fighting terrorism and maintaining secu-

Pullbacks terms modified, but no blank check

ANALYSIS

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Months of Hebron talks fittingly ended in the middle of the night, underscoring a maxim from Henry Kissinger's memoirs: Middle East negotiations always end in exhaustion, rather than exultation.

While indeed exhaustion is sometimes needed for the domestic constituencies of Arabs and Israelis as leaders try to convince their skeptical supporters that they obtained the best deal possible, this time the motive is even greater as this agreement witnessed the first Likud-PLO deal, including the first time that the Likud is yielding territory in the West Bank.

This fact dwarfs the justifiable question of whether the particulars of this deal warranted a loss of over a half year, and whether these terms are better than the Oslo II agreement on Hebron.

However, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat wanted to make sure that Hebron was not the Likud's last territorial concession, and hence in the last two weeks, would not budge from his insistence that Israel commit to a timetable on all three West Bank pullbacks, which is stipulated in the 1995 Oslo II accord.

Arafat won an American reaffirmation of that principle, which Washington first endorsed when it witnessed the signing of Oslo.

Yet, if Arafat won the point of principle, Netanyahu won some wiggle room regarding the timetable and the withdrawals.

The pullbacks can occur as late as August 1998 rather than September 1997, and in the most important rove highlighted by the Netanyahu government, outgoing Secretary of State Warren Christopher has clarified the ambiguity that existed in Oslo II, that Israel would be able to unilaterally designate the scope of the pullbacks rather than their being the subject of negotiation. While Oslo II implied this, it was never stated explicitly before nor did this interpretation have a US endorsement.

Arafat told a Peace Now delegation the Palestinians would gain 80% of the West Bank by the end of the third pullback — and before talks on Jerusalem must conclude — due to his interpretation of

Peace process timetable

The next steps in implementing the Hebron agreement and the continuation of the Oslo Accords are as follows:

- Approval of the Israeli and Palestinian cabinets late yesterday.
- Knesset vote on accord today.
- IDF pullout from 80 percent of Hebron within 10 days of the signing.
- Within six weeks of signing, Israel begins first pullbacks from rural areas of the West Bank.
- Eight months after the first stage, Israel carries out second stage of the West Bank withdrawal.
- In August 1998, Israel carries out the third pullout, leaving the PA in charge of all of the West Bank except settlements and "military areas."
- Within two months of the Hebron signing, Israel and the Palestinians begin negotiations on a final peace agreement, tackling issues of begin negotiations on final borders, Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian sovereignty, final borders, Palestinian refugees and the future of Jerusalem and of settlements. The agreement is to be reached by May 1999.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Evidence of infanticide by Romans found in Ashkelon

By JUDY SIEGEL

Hebrew University researchers have found solid evidence of infanticide of newborn males and females by Romans living in Ashkelon 1,600 years ago.

Since the skeletons — which they examined by DNA analysis to determine sex — were found beneath a Roman bathhouse located in the ancient town's "red light district," the researchers suggest the babies were unwanted offspring of prostitutes who worked there.

The pioneering research was published yesterday in the prestigious British journal *Nature*. Although infant skeletons from the Roman era had been found in various places before, it was the first time that polymerase chain reaction techniques were used on the bones to determine the sex of the babies.

Prof. Ariella Oppenheim of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School said yesterday that the killing of female infants was a widespread practice in Roman culture, because in an era without contraception, having "too many girls" was regarded as

undesirable. Thus male infanticide was much more rare.
Oppenheim led the interdisciplinary research along with Prof. Patricia Smith, Dr. Marina Faerman, Gila Kahila, Dvora
Continued on Page 7

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Knesset prepares for Hebron vote

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset is preparing for today's vote on the Hebron agreement with faction meetings and heavy security. It is still unclear whether the vote will be turned into a motion of confidence instead of an endorsement of the agreement. Mofet is threatening to file a no-confidence motion, which would delay the vote by a week and would also mean that ministers who vote against it will have to resign. But the government has said it would counter this by changing the vote into a motion of confidence which would be heard the same day.

In such a situation, the National Religious Party ministers are expected to absent themselves and the rest of the party would either vote against, abstain or leave the room.

Although the Knesset has ratified other international agreements, including the Camp David Accords and the Oslo Accords, this is the first time it is voting on an agreement which has only been initiated and not signed and implemented.

The Knesset session is scheduled to open with a speech by the prime minister, followed by an open discussion in which any MK who wants to address the House will be allocated five minutes. Copies of the agreement will be given to

the MKs before the session starts. Knesset House Committee Chairman Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) asked that the vote be postponed to Sunday to avoid the possibility of the implementation of the agreement on the Sabbath, but Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai assured him the IDF would not be involved in Sabbath desecration.

At present, the agreement is expected to pass in the Knesset, although several MKs have said they will not support it including the nine National Religious Party MKs; 10 members of Likud-Gesher-Tsomet; three members of Yisrael Ba'aliya; and the two Mofet MKs.

Some 91 MKs will probably vote in favor of the agreement, dropping to between 59 to 42 if it is turned into a no-confidence motion.

Four Likud ministers are likely to skip the vote. In a confidence motion, ministers who wish to remain in the government must either vote in favor or be absent from the room; being present but not voting would be considered a vote against the government and force them to leave the cabinet.

Tsomet MKs Moshe Peled, Eliezer Zandberg, Pini Badash and Haim Dayan; Gesher's Michael Kleiner; and the Likud's Ruby Rivlin, Uzi Landau and David Re'em are all expected to either vote against, abstain or absent themselves.

"We are cheating ourselves. This is the Oslo Agreement but signed by the Likud," said Kleiner. "Until now we could have applied pressure, now even that is no longer possible. I think it is our duty to the voters not to support this agreement. It's a black day." MK Shaul Yahalom (NRP) said his party would vote against or absent themselves "or take action short of leaving the government. That we will not do because the alternative is a government led by Peres."

NRP faction chairman Hanan Porat asked the prime minister to allow the coalition freedom to vote not according to coalition lines in the Knesset today. He said the NRP would vote against the government even if it were turned into a no-confidence motion, although most of his party colleagues differed with him on this.

Yesterday afternoon, Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen presented coalition faction chairman Michael Eitan with flowers to forward to the prime minister to congratulate him on signing the agreement.

Opposition leader Shimon Peres called Cohen from the US to praise the developments and initiating. He said he would cancel his visit and return for the Knesset vote if necessary to ensure it pass. The faction is expected to vote in favor of the agreement or abstain from a

no-confidence motion. Yossi Beilin (Labor) said: "I'm very happy today. The prime minister has done the right thing. I'd like to welcome him to the Oslo Club."

The Democratic Arab Party said it would vote in favor of the government, even in a no-confidence motion. "If the Israeli government had the courage to adopt the Oslo Accords, which is good, we will support it," said MK Taleb A-Sansa.

"Even in a no-confidence motion because we know who is filing it and why." Mofet leader Rehavam Ze'evi said he would consider the no-confidence motion "in the hope that Netanyahu would not be re-elected as premier. The national camp, if it still exists, would not vote for a candidate who abandoned them."

The Third Way MKs will vote for the agreement, although Alex Lubofsky said: "It cuts me in two: On the one hand

my heart is broken at leaving Hebron, the city of our forefathers, on the other hand, it's clear that this is the right step to take right now."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "I give Netanyahu all the credit he deserves on this... Today Netanyahu is following in Yitzhak Rabin's footsteps. Today the Likud government is taking the Oslo road in the knowledge that there is no other."

Likely outcome of today's vote

IN A REGULAR VOTE:
Likud-Gesher-Tsomet: 19 support; 6 against; 7 abstentions or absent
Against: David Re'em; Michael Kleiner; Uzi Landau; Ruby Rivlin; Haim Dayan; Moshe Peled; Absent/Abstain: Nadim Burmanhat (abroad); Benny Begin; Ariel Sharon; Limor Livnat; Rafael Eitan; Pini Badash; Eliezer Zandberg
Labor: 32 support; Ephraim Oshaya against; Peres absent
NRP: 7 against; 2 ministers absent/absent
Meretz: 9 in favor
Shas: 10 in favor
UTL: 4 support
Hatshe: 4 support
Democratic Arab Party: 4 support
Vered: 5 support; 3 support; 2 support
Nurtalim: 4 support
Third Way: 4 support
Mofet: 2 against

IN CASE OF A CONFIDENCE MOTION:
Likud-Gesher-Tsomet: 26 support; 11 abstentions or absent
Labor: 32 support; 6 against; 7 abstentions or absent
NRP: Undecided; probably all 7 abstentions
Meretz: 9 support; 10 support
Shas: 10 support
UTL: 4 support
Hatshe: 4 support
Democratic Arab Party: 4 support
Vered: 5 support; 3 support; 2 support
Nurtalim: 4 support
Third Way: 4 support
Mofet: 2 against

Army on alert for violence in Hebron

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A large number of soldiers, police and border policemen have been brought in to Hebron to ensure a smooth redeployment in the city, expected 5000 after the Knesset gives its approval. IDF soldiers have been instructed to be on special alert to foil attempts by extremists from both sides to disrupt the transfer during this sensitive interim period, military sources said.

The sources said that the massive presence of IDF forces in the city aimed to deter a repeat of an attack like that of Noam Friedman, the off-duty IDF soldier who fired on Arab shoppers in the city two weeks ago.

"Soldiers are on alert. If anything there are more forces and police and border policemen here than ever so they are actually deterring the repeat of such incidents," said one officer in Hebron.

"Right now, we are waiting for orders from the government to carry out the redeployment. Nothing has been changed yet," the officer added.

The redeployment is expected to begin following the approval of the Hebron deal in the Knesset today. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai issued orders to the IDF yesterday not to begin the redeployment until the Knesset gives its authorization. However, Mordechai allowed for heavy equipment to be moved following yesterday's cabinet approval of the agreement, officials in the Defense Ministry said.

Meeting with Chief of General

Staff Lt-Gen. Amnool Lipkin-Shahak and other top IDF brass, Mordechai instructed the army and security forces to carry out the redeployment with the "minimum of friction while protecting as much as possible the lives of the Jewish and Arab residents of the city."

Mordechai also insisted that under no circumstances should the IDF violate Shabbat, indicating that the redeployment is to be either completed by Friday evening or held up until at least next Sunday. According to the protocol signed early Wednesday, the redeployment must be carried out within 10 days.

Furthermore, defense officials said, Mordechai said the redeployment must be carried out "with heads held high and in broad daylight," contrary to the late night scatter of IDF forces when they pulled out of Nablus.

OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan and Maj-Gen. Gabi Ofir, commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria, met yesterday with top Palestinian commanders including Gen. Haj Ismail Jaber and Col. Jabril Rajoub to coordinate the redeployment, military sources said.

According to Israel Radio, the Palestinians banded over to Israel the names of the 400 Palestinian policemen who are expected to take up positions in Hebron as well as the serial numbers of their weapons, but IDF sources could not confirm this. The Hebron agreement calls for the Palestinian police to pass an internal security check "in order to verify their suitability for service."



Yisrael Ba'aliya head Natan Sharansky (center) walks through Hebron yesterday guarded by border policemen and accompanied by settlers.

Road ahead foggy

By HERB KEINON

The road from Jerusalem to Hebron was enveloped in a thick, thick fog yesterday morning. The cars on the road moved forward, but it was extremely difficult to see ahead, nearly impossible to know where the road would lead.

The fog seemed nature's made-to-order metaphor, eerily appropriate for the day the Hebron redeployment agreement was finally signed.

The weather in Hebron throughout the day reflected the mood of the city's residents. At times rainy, grey and gloomy - for the settlers. At other times sunny, the sun illuminating the clouds and casting a crisp, El Greco-like quality over the city's hills - all for the Palestinians.

"This is a dark day," said settlement spokesman Moshe Ben-Zimra, as dark clouds drifted over the Abu Snehah hill behind him. "It is a sad day for us, and for all Israel. The government has abandoned the City of the Patriarchs."

About an hour later, standing in the sun in Gross square, Hebron resident Faiz Nasser presented the other side. "This is a very happy day, very happy," he said in clipped English. "I feel born again, because now we will be like all other people. Like Gaza people, like Ramallah people, like Jordan people, like Syrian people, like Norway people. This is a very happy day."

Then he caused a little rattle of his own to fall, at least on the settlers. "This is the beginning," he said. "But in the end there will be no more colonists [settlers] in Hebron. Hebron is good without Jews."

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe reportedly said yesterday that he can live peacefully with the Jews in Hebron if they accept Palestinian sovereignty over the city. This comment shows just how the tables have turned: for years those on the Right have been saying they can accept Palestinian

presence in Hebron, and elsewhere in Judea and Samaria, if the Palestinians accept Israeli sovereignty over all Eretz Yisrael.

Hebron yesterday, said Tor Vaagli, a member of the TIPH contingent stationed in the city, felt no different than it has for the last three months.

There were dozens of journalists, and dozens of tourists. There were rocks thrown, and IDF drills simulating attacks. There were symbolic confrontations between soldiers and Palestinians, a tense game of "king of the hill."

"Move, you can't stand here," Avi Buskila, the hero of the Noam Friedman drama, told a Palestinian man who was standing in the middle of a street and granting an interview to a reporter from Dubai.

"I will not move," he said to the reporter. "He has no right to move me."

Buskila then turned to the reporter and asked her to move, saying that her interviewee was just trying to "start a provocation."

The reporter from Dubai obliged.

At one point, three soldiers cocked their rifles and - aiming their weapons - raced out of a street leading to the Abraham Avinu quarter. They were chased by reporters and cameramen. A Military Police van turned on its sirens. A couple of Palestinians began shouting. Horns honked, cars began racing every which way. The resulting feeling was one of total lack of control, a feeling that anything could happen.

This "hot pursuit," it turned out, was only a drill. The soldiers did indeed cock their weapons, but had taken the magazines out before hand. They walked back to their post near Abraham Avinu compound, past a shop where a vendor was shaking his hips and moving his arms. Speakers outside his shop were blasting the hit song, "Macarena."

The scene was surreal. The scene was vintage Hebron.

Security clauses aim to protect Jews

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The complicated security arrangements have one aim in mind: protecting the Jewish residents. The obvious main difference following the redeployment will be that the IDF will no longer control the entire city and some 80 percent of it will be in the hands of 400 Palestinian police armed with pistols, rifles and submachine guns.

The Palestinian forces will be in addition to the 310 Palestinian policemen currently in the villages surrounding Hebron.

The area known as H-1 will have the same Palestinian autonomy existing in Jericho, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus, Jenin, Kalkilya and Tulkarm, that is, total Palestinian responsibility of civilian and security matters. While not specifically delineated in the protocol, Israel reserves the right to hot pursuit into Hebron's H-1 as it does in the other Palestinian cities.

However, this agreement calls for "special security arrangements" to be imposed on areas adjacent to the 20 percent of Hebron which is to remain under exclusive Israeli security responsibility. These areas are to serve as a kind of buffer between Israeli forces and Palestinian police checkpoints with the aim of distancing the two forces so there is less friction and chances of conflict, intentional or misconstrued, from breaking out.

Behind these areas will be checkpoints manned by Palestinian police whose purpose will be to "prevent entry of armed persons and demonstrators or other people threatening security and public order."

Israelis traveling in H-1 will be under the responsibility of the IDF, and two joint patrols have been set up to monitor this. One will function on Route 35 and the other on the E-Sallam Road. Furthermore, the high grounds overlooking the Jewish enclaves, including the Abu Snehah hilltop and Harat A-Sheikh, will be virtually demilitarized and patrolled solely by Joint Mobile Units.

According to the protocol, Israel is to keep all powers and responsibilities for internal security and public order in the H-2 area, where the Jewish enclave is located. Some 2000 Palestinians also live in this area.

The Joint Mobile Units will also operate in H-2 to handle incidents that involve Palestinians only. These are the units in which Palestinians will be armed with Ingram submachine guns, which are considered to have a shorter range than the Klachnikov AK-47 Palestinian forces traditionally carry. Israeli forces will be armed with short M-16s.

Hebron Jews still hope agreement will fail

By HERB KEINON

Hebron settlement leaders conferred in an emergency meeting for more than six hours yesterday, but outside of a decision to protest at the Machpela Cave on Sunday and wear their garbments in a symbolic act of mourning, they made no operative decision on how - or whether - to combat the redeployment.

"We still hope the cabinet will reject the agreement," Hebron spokesman David Wilder said after the meeting. "It is a terrible, terrible agreement."

Wilder said the settlers are "not throwing in the towel, not giving up. People are not going to leave, we will try to bring in here as many people as we can. We will have communal Shabbatot like we have had in the past - probably next week - so people can show a presence."

As to whether the settlement has plans to disrupt the actual redeployment, Wilder said: "We cannot force Jews to patrol where they don't want to patrol. We have no intention of getting into conflicts."

After more than a year of intensive efforts to stop the redeployment, Wilder said he doesn't feel the campaign has been in vain.

Clinton: Seize the momentum

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton called the Hebron agreement an important step in the peace process, but cautioned Israel and the Palestinians to now seize on the momentum brought by the deal.

In a short meeting with reporters just after he spoke with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and PA chairman Yasser Arafat on Tuesday night, Clinton said the agreement "brings us another step closer to a lasting, secure Middle East peace."

"Once again, the Israelis and the Palestinians have shown they can resolve their differences and help to build a brighter future for their children by finding ways to address each other's concerns. And once again, the forces of peace have prevailed over a history of division," Clinton said.

Clinton singled out Secretary of State Warren Christopher, special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and Jordan's King Hussein for helping get the deal done, and also thanked Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak for "his support."

"The present outcome is unfortunate," he said, "but it is temporary. In three months, a year, or maybe longer, Hebron will once again become a part of Israel. At some time the Oslo process will blow up, maybe over Jerusalem, maybe over settlement expansion. But Hebron will return to us."

Settlement official Moshe Ben-Zimra said that the settlement is "realistic: We will not confront the army. We only want to live here in peace, and will not instigate anything with the Palestinians."

"Despite the situation, we will continue to live here as a symbol of steadfastness and struggle," he added.

Ben-Zimra said he believes that as a result of the agreement, the settlement will be given permission to build in the compounds that remain under its control.

"This," he said, "will still not turn us into supporters of the agreement."

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who spearheaded settlement in Hebron nearly 30 years ago, said, "we are in danger. The IDF will be unable to protect us." But, he added, "Jews have been in danger before in Eretz Yisrael, and have lived and prospered."

Hebron gets ready for the future

By JON INMANUEL

The Hebron protocol. The US has promised to pump one million dollars into renovating the half-kilometer thoroughfare which has become a pedestrian mall for settlers called "King David Street."

It will be a test of the necessary new relations between Jews and Palestinians as they will have little choice but to meet there daily.

If things go wrong business might still expand. Shuhada Street is the center of Hebron's plate-glass industry and during years of friction between Jews and Arabs in the area glasscutters did a roaring business fixing windows.

There was, however, not much profit in it.

"We couldn't charge victims of Jewish violence much more than cost price. It would not have been right," said Wahid Hashlamoun, whose workshop is just 30 meters up the road from Beit Hadassah and Beit Schneider, and another 30 meters from the IDF checkpoint at the northern entrance to the street.

Hashlamoun felt that little would change. The soldiers and the settlers will still be there and he will still feel sandwiched between them, he said.

Mayor Mustafa Natshe was more hopeful, "if the settlers change and recognize the Palestinian Authority." Some set-

The Knesset

Today, Thursday, January 16,
there will be no tours of the
Knesset building as the Knesset
will be in special session.

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Peres: Politics can't stop peace process

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK -- Shimon Peres was out about to criticize the Hebron deal. "It's a good agreement in the right direction," the former prime minister said yesterday in New York.

"We are learning that the peace process has a strength of its own and that politics cannot stop the peace process from going on," he said at a news conference in New York.

"What happened with the signature was the beginning of the end of a deep ideological rift [on land] that has divided the Israeli people from the first day of its creation."

Peres said he was surprised at the speed with which the agreement was reached, and suggested that Israel had lost good will unnecessarily.

The major, mainstream American Jewish organizations issued nearly identical statements welcoming the agreement and commending Dennis Ross, the US mediator, for his efforts.

The Hebron signing was the front-page news in New York, but with decidedly different slants.

"DEAL!" was the headline of The New York Daily News, while the conservative New York Post's headline read: "Bibi's Big Gamble."

Both featured pictures of a warm handshake between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat.

Shamir condemns Hebron agreement

By SARAH HONG

For former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, the agreement to cede the real heartland of the Jewish people fills me with a deep sense of loss. I see in it the abandonment of our hope.

He said he cannot imagine what caused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accept the Hebron agreement and "what brought this man to cast aside his principles and the ideals which guided him."

It wasn't, according to Shamir, "something preordained and unavoidable, even if Netanyahu did inherit the disastrous Oslo legacy from the previous government. It is all a matter of resolve and there is no situation with which one cannot cope."

"This man must have decided at some point that ideology no longer pays, but our ideology is not capricious," Shamir said. "It is the fruit of thousands of years of Jewish history. A man must be true to himself and to his ideological essence. How he could dance to other tunes is beyond me. I doubt he sought to curry favor with the Israeli Left, which abhors him. Perhaps it was the Americans he tried to please."

Shamir said he believes that Netanyahu had plenty of opportunity to ditch the Oslo accords he inherited, "most of all when [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat's men opened fire on Israeli soldiers last September. If at that point Netanyahu had invoked his concept of reciprocity, everyone would have understood why he can't rely on Arafat and why he cannot be asked to be

more loyal to any deal than Arafat is."

What hurts him the most, Shamir said, is that we "are giving away our future. Judea and Samaria is the Jewish heartland and because it is so adjacent to our centers of population, commerce and industry, its open spaces - where we could have made room for a huge aliya and had a viable state with a massive Jewish majority. We are in a process of relinquishing the infrastructure of our national survival."

Netanyahu's assertion that he wrought significant improvements in the original Oslo deal are "utter nonsense" to Shamir.

"The guarantees in the American letter and the interpretation in [Meretz MK] Amnon Rubinstein's letter of how much territory we will cede are laughable. Will Arafat subscribe to any of that? Will anyone remember any of this in a few months or will it become an esoteric text which only intransigent Israelis point to?"

The fact is that Arafat and those around him don't think in terms of reciprocity. They will take what they can and then it will all blow up in our faces. All the guarantees and legal interpretations are an empty shell and we in our foolishness make them the central pivot on which the nation's existence hinges. You have to be a total idiot to believe all this," Shamir said.

He wondered "what happened to the notion of direct negotiations and why the American role was allowed to be so dominant in the process, to the point that we lost



A haredi passes graffiti reading 'Bibi is a traitor' yesterday, painted on a downtown Jerusalem wall overnight and signed by the outlawed Kach movement.

our independence and self-respect." But worst of all, Shamir said, is

"the fact that all this does not move us even a bit closer to peace. The opposite is true. The more we

give, the more the Arabs demand to satisfy their growing appetite. The tragedy is that no one

forced us into this. It was a failure of will of dramatic and historic proportions."

ANALYSIS

Hebron story far from over

By PUMIAS NERANI

The negotiations on IDF redeployment in Hebron have ended, but the Hebron story is far from being concluded. There is something peculiar to the situation in Hebron that prevented achieving an early agreement on redeployment there as a natural continuation of those from other Palestinian cities.

From the very start of the negotiations on redeployment from the Palestinian cities in the West Bank, IDF negotiators were very hesitant in dealing with Hebron's problems the same way as those of other cities. One IDF negotiator said, "There will be no redeployment in Hebron, at least not like Ramallah or Nablus. The IDF has to stay in Hebron."

During his negotiations in Taba, then-foreign minister Shimon Peres had to put special pressure on Maj.-Gen. (res.) Ilan Biran to remove his objection to the articles concerning Hebron in the agreements. But even after reaching the agreements, Peres delayed its implementation and later revealed to the Parisian Le Figaro, that he did so at Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's request. Peres explained that Arafat had needed more time to prepare himself to tackle Hamas.

Because the Jewish community would remain in the middle of Hebron under the agreement, it was much more unpalatable to Hamas than agreements on Ramallah, Jenin or Nablus, which do not have Jewish communities in their hearts. These same problems that delayed the conclusion

of the negotiations still must be faced during the implementation period.

Ibrahim Ghosheh, a Hamas leader in Amman, threatened last month that the fundamentalist movement would act against any Palestinian who signed a Hebron agreement. Despite its strong objection to Oslo agreements, Hamas never gave similar orders in the past. However, the existence of a Jewish settlement in the center of the city and the continuation of Israeli control of the Machpelah Cave were even more objectionable to Hamas. And there is great sympathy among Hebron residents for Hamas's positions.

"Arafat learned this during his meeting with the Hebron leadership last year in Bethlehem. They told him they would not approve any agreement that legalizes the existence of settlers in the heart of the city and the continuation of Israeli control of the cave. They preferred the continuation of occupation another 100 years to this, they said."

Later, after details like the future of Shuhada Street were made available, even Arafat loyalist Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe expressed reservations because he thought those measures would consolidate the Jewish settlement's existence in Hebron.

The PA now has to start an information campaign to justify an agreement that looks to too many like a betrayal on national and religious terms. To judge from past experience, the PA will justify the agreements as a tool to a total removal of the settlers and Palestinian control of the cave. The question is, how many will be convinced.

By DAVID RUDGE

Dr. Yair Hirschfeld, one of the main architects of the Oslo Accords, enjoyed a deep sense of satisfaction yesterday after the signing of the long-awaited Hebron accord.

It was very different from his feelings on September 13, 1993, when prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the first Oslo accord in the presence of US President Bill Clinton at the White House.

"Everybody was in a state of euphoria after the signing, but I wasn't. I knew that the old system of enforced unilateral control was coming to an end, but a new system was not yet in place," said Hirschfeld, a senior lecturer at Haifa University's Middle East department.

Hirschfeld's contacts with Palestinian officials and subsequent secret meetings over a five-month period were instrumental in creating the breakthrough that led to the Israel-PLO accord.

"We had a paper, but it had not been agreed upon exactly how it would be implemented. Everything was extremely fragile and vulnerable, because we didn't have the new tools of cooperation in hand. These had to be developed," Hirschfeld said in an interview with The Jerusalem Post.

"Now, we have gone through that process, I believe very suc-

cessfully, despite the heavy price we have paid, so today I'm more optimistic than I was when the [first Oslo] agreement was signed."

Hirschfeld stressed that many difficult obstacles on the path to lasting peace remained, but he was cautiously hopeful that these could and would be overcome.

"I have a great sense of satisfaction today and a conviction that

the Oslo process is being continued and that the consensus in Israel is being widened in favor of the process," he said.

"There is no positive alternative to a dialogue with the Palestinians and moving forward to final status negotiations and the establishment of a permanent peace between Israel and the Palestinians. He said the signing of the

Hebron accord shows that the process "is very strong and is attainable, and that we have reached a point of no return."

"There's no alternative to an agreed upon separation under the conditions that we want and the Palestinians want. We started on this path and now this government is continuing the process. We welcome that very much," he added.

Leah Rabin: Netanyahu must now ask Yitzhak's forgiveness

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

LEAH Rabin commended Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday for signing the Hebron agreement, but said "on this day Netanyahu should express remorse and ask forgiveness of [former Prime Minister] Yitzhak Rabin, who was murdered for taking the way of peace, which today everyone realizes is the only way." Rabin told Israel Radio the agreement Netanyahu and Arafat

signed is to all intents and purposes the Oslo Agreement, for which Netanyahu had attacked, cursed and incited against Rabin when he tried to implement it.

MK Dalit Itzik, head of Labor's response team, admitted she had ambivalent feelings regarding the agreement. On the one hand she was pleased that Netanyahu had finally adopted Labor's policy, but on the other hand she felt the price was very high: "Netanyahu signed the agreement, but only

after uniting the Arab world against us, turning Arafat into the world's pet and costing us other concessions."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said Netanyahu deserved praise and a pat on the back in his efforts to get his government on the Oslo path

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense LIBI Thanks the Co-op Blue Square Chain

A ceremony recently took place to mark the contribution of Co-op Blue Square to the "Give your heart to LIBI" car-flag sales drive which took place last Independence Day.



Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Danny Matt (left) chairman of LIBI (left), Yaacov Gelbard, managing director of Co-op (center), and Ofer Dauber, assistant to the head of Co-op's marketing department.

Advertisement for Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael - Jewish National Fund. It features the text 'Zionism with roots' and 'Come work and plant with KKL-JNF on Tu B'Shvat'. Below this, it lists various excursion routes from Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Beersheba, including departure times and expected return times. At the bottom, it provides contact information for registration and details: 'TO REGISTER FOR EXCURSIONS, AND FOR DETAILS ON TU BISHVAT PLANTINGS, PLEASE CALL KKL-JNF'S GREEN LINE 177-022-2191'.

Advertisement for The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It announces an international conference titled 'Japan and East Asia: Lessons for the Development of the Middle East in the Era of Peace'. The conference is organized by the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace and the Department of East Asian Studies. It lists speakers including Prof. Hanoch Gutfreund, Prof. Amih Reubeni, H.E. Haruhiko Shibuya, Mr. Yitzhak Shelef, Prof. Gary Saxenhouse, Prof. Moshe Ma'oz, Prof. Shmuel Eisenstadt, and Prof. Ben-Ami Shillony. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, January 19, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Albert Einstein Square, Jerusalem.

Protocol Concerning the Redeployment in Hebron

In accordance with the provisions of the Interim Agreement and in particular of Article VII of Annex I to the Interim Agreement, both Parties have agreed on this Protocol for the implementation of the redeployment in Hebron.

Security Arrangements Regarding Redeployment in Hebron

1. Redeployment in Hebron
The redeployment of the Israeli Military Forces in Hebron will be carried out in accordance with this Protocol. This redeployment will be completed not later than 10 days from the signing of this Protocol. During these 10 days both sides will exert every possible effort to prevent friction and any action that would prevent the redeployment. This redeployment shall constitute full implementation of the provisions of the Interim Agreement with regard to the City of Hebron unless otherwise provided for in Article VII of Annex I to the Interim Agreement.

2. Security Powers and Responsibilities

a. (1) The Palestinian Police will assume responsibilities in Area H-1 similar to those in other cities in the West Bank; and
(2) Israel will retain all powers and responsibilities for internal security and public order in Area H-2. In addition, Israel will continue to carry the responsibility for overall security of Israel.
b. In this context - both sides reaffirm their commitment to honor the relevant security provisions of the Interim Agreement, including the provisions regarding - Arrangements for Security and Public Order (Article XII of the Interim Agreement); Prevention of Hostile Acts (Article XV of the Interim Agreement); Security Policy for the Prevention of Terrorism and Violence (Article II of Annex I to the Interim Agreement); Guidelines for Hebron (Article VII of Annex I to the Interim Agreement); and Rules of Conduct in Mutual Security Matters (Article XI of Annex I to the Interim Agreement).

3. Agreed Security Arrangements

a. With a view to ensuring mutual security and stability in the City of Hebron, special security arrangements will apply adjacent to the areas under the security responsibility of Israel, in Area H-1, in the area between the Palestinian Police checkpoints delineated on the map attached to this Protocol as Appendix I (hereinafter referred to as "the attached map") and the areas under the security responsibility of Israel.
b. The purpose of the above mentioned checkpoints will be to enable the Palestinian Police, exercising their responsibilities under the Interim Agreement, to prevent entry of armed persons and demonstrators or other people threatening security and public order, into the above mentioned area.

4. Joint Security Measures

a. The DCO will establish a sub-office in the City of Hebron as indicated on the attached map.
b. JMU will operate in Area H-2 to handle incidents that involve Palestinians only. The JMU movement will be detailed on the attached map. The DCO will coordinate the JMU movement and activity.
c. As part of the security

arrangements in the area adjacent to the areas under the security responsibility of Israel, as defined above, Joint Mobile Units will be operating in this area, with special focus on the following places:

- (1) Abu Sinaiah
- (2) Harat a-Sheikh
- (3) Sha'aba
- (4) The high ground overlooking new Route No. 35.
- d. Two Joint Patrols will function in Area H-1:

(1) a Joint Patrol which will operate on the road from Ras e-Jura to the north of the Dura junction via e-Salaam Road, as indicated on the attached map; and

(2) a Joint Patrol which will operate on existing Route No. 35, including the eastern part of existing Route No. 35, as indicated on the attached map.

e. The Palestinian and Israeli side of the JMUs in the City of Hebron will be armed with equivalent types of weapons (Mini-Ingramam submachine guns for the Palestinian side and short M-16s

"Special security arrangements will apply adjacent to the areas under the security responsibility of Israel"

for the Israeli side).

f. With a view to dealing with the special security situation in the City of Hebron, a Joint Coordination Center (hereinafter the "JCC"), headed by senior officers of both sides, will be established in the DCO at Har Manoah/Jabel Manoah. The purpose of the JCC will be to coordinate the joint security measures in the City of Hebron. The JCC will be guided by all the relevant provisions of the Interim Agreement, including Annex I and this Protocol. In this context, each side will notify the JCC of demonstrations and actions taken in respect of such demonstrations, and of any security activity, close to the areas under the responsibility of the other side, including in the area defined in Article 3(a) above. The JCC shall be informed of activities in accordance with Article 5(d)(3) of this Protocol.

5. The Palestinian Police a. Palestinian Police stations or posts will be established in Area H-1, manned by a total of up to 400 policemen, equipped with 200 pistols, and 100 rifles for the protection of the police stations.
b. Four designated Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) will be established and stationed in Area H-1, one in each of the police stations, as delineated on the attached map. The main task of the RRTs will be to handle special security cases. Each RRT shall be comprised of up to 16 members.
c. The above mentioned rifles will be designated for the exclusive use of the RRTs, to handle special cases.
d. (1) The Palestinian Police shall operate freely in Area H-1.
(2) Activities of the RRTs armed with rifles in the Agreed Adjacent Area, as defined in Appendix 2,

shall require the agreement of the JCC.

(3) The RRTs will use the rifles in the rest of the Area H-1 to fulfill their above mentioned tasks.
e. The Palestinian Police will ensure that all Palestinian policemen, prior to their deployment in the City of Hebron, will pass a security check in order to verify their suitability for service, taking into account the sensitivity of the area.

6. Holy Sites

a. Paragraphs 2 and 3(a) of Article 32 of Appendix I to Annex III of the Interim Agreement will be applicable to the following Holy Sites in Area H-1:
(1) The Cave of Otniel Ben-Knaz / El Khalil;
(2) Elonei Mamre / Hamre Er-Rameh;
(3) Eshel Avraham / Bafatot Ibrahim; and
(4) Ma'ayan Sarah / Ein Sarah.

b. The Palestinian Police will be responsible for the protection of the above Jewish Holy Sites. Without derogating from the



A demonstrator weeps at a protest against the agreement in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hender)

above responsibility of the Palestinian Police, visits to the above Holy Sites by worshippers or other visitors shall be accompanied by a Joint Mobile Unit, which will ensure free, unimpeded and secure access to the Holy Sites, as well as their peaceful use.

7. Normalization of Life in the Old City

a. Both sides reiterate their commitment to maintain normal life throughout the City of Hebron, and to prevent any provocation or friction they may affect the normal life in the city.
b. In this context, both sides are committed to take all steps and measures necessary for the normalization of life in Hebron, including:
(1) The wholesale market - Habashe - will be opened as a retail market in which goods will be sold directly to consumers from within the existing shops.
(2) The movement of vehicles on the Shuhada Road will be gradually returned, within four months, to the same situation

which existed prior to February 1994.

8. The Imara

The Imara will be turned over to the Palestinian side upon the completion of the redeployment and will become the headquarters of the Palestinian Police in the City of Hebron.

9. City of Hebron

Both sides reiterate their commitment to the unity of the City of Hebron, and their understanding that the division of security responsibility will not divide the city. In this context, and without derogating from the security powers and responsibilities of either side, both sides share the mutual goal that movement of people and goods and vehicles within and in and out of the city will be smooth and normal, without obstacles or barriers.

Civil Arrangements Regarding the Redeployment in Hebron

10. Transfer of Civil Powers and Responsibilities

a. The transfer of civil powers

and responsibilities that have yet to be transferred to the Palestinian side in the city of Hebron (12 spheres) in accordance with Article VII of Annex I to the Interim Agreement shall be conducted concurrently with the beginning of the redeployment of Israeli military forces in Hebron.

b. In Area H-2, the civil powers and responsibilities will be transferred to the Palestinian side, except for those relating to Israelis and their property, which shall continue to be exercised by the Israeli Military Government.

11. Planning, Zoning and Building

a. The two parties are equally committed to preserve and protect the historic character of the city in a way which does not harm or change that character in any part of the city.
b. The Palestinian side has informed the Israeli side that in exercising its powers and responsibilities, taking into account the existing municipal regulations, it

infrastructure (such as water, sewage, electricity and communications) serving Area H-2.

b. The Israeli side may request, through the DCL, that the Municipality carry out works regarding the roads or other infrastructure required for the well being of the Israelis in Area H-2. If the Israeli side offers to cover the costs of these works, the Palestinian side will ensure that these works are carried out as a top priority.

c. The above does not prejudice the provisions of the Interim Agreement regarding the access to infrastructure, facilities and installations located in the city of Hebron, such as the electricity grid.

13. Transportation

The Palestinian side shall have the power to determine bus stops, traffic arrangements and traffic signalization in the city of Hebron. Traffic signalization, traffic arrangements and the location of bus stops in Area H-2 will remain as they are on the date of the redeployment in Hebron. Any subsequent change in these arrangements in Area H-2 will be done in cooperation between the two sides in the transportation subcommittee.

14. Municipal Inspectors

a. In accordance with paragraph 4.c of Article VII of Annex I of the Interim Agreement, plainclothes unarmed municipal inspectors will operate in Area H-2. The number of these inspectors shall not exceed 50.
b. The inspectors shall carry official identification cards with a photograph issued by the Municipality.
c. The Palestinian side may request the assistance of the Israeli Police, through the DCL of Hebron in order to carry out its enforcement activities in Area H-2.

15. Location of Offices of the Palestinian Council

The Palestinian side, when operating new offices in Area H-2, will take into consideration the need to avoid provocation and friction. Where establishing such offices might affect public order or security the two sides will cooperate to find a suitable location.

16. Municipal Services

In accordance with paragraph 5 of Article VII of Annex I of the Interim Agreement, municipal services shall be provided regularly and continuously to all parts of the city of Hebron, at the same quality and cost. The cost shall be determined by the Palestinian side with respect to work done and materials consumed, without discrimination.

Miscellaneous

17. Temporary International Presence

There will be a Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH). Both sides will agree on the modalities of the TIPH, including the number of its members and its area of operation.

18. Annex I

Nothing in this Protocol will derogate from the security powers and responsibilities of either side in accordance with Annex I to the Interim Agreement.

19. Attached Appendices

The appendices attached to this Protocol shall constitute an integral part hereof.

"The movement of vehicles on Shuhada Road will be gradually returned, within four months"

has undertaken to implement the following provisions:

(1) Proposed construction of buildings above 2 floors (6 meters) within 50 meters of the external boundaries of the locations specified in the list attached to this Protocol as Appendix 3 (hereinafter referred to as "the attached list") will be coordinated through the DCL.

(2) Proposed construction of buildings above 3 floors (9 meters) between 50 and 100 meters of the external boundaries of the locations specified in the attached list will be coordinated through the DCL.

(3) Proposed construction of non-residential, non-commercial buildings within 100 meters of the external boundaries of the locations specified in the attached list that are designed for uses that may adversely affect the environment (such as industrial factories) or buildings and institutions in which more than 50 persons are expected to gather together will be coordinated through the DCL.

(4) Proposed construction of buildings above two floors (6 meters) within 50 meters from each side of the road specified in the attached list will be coordinated through the DCL.

(5) The necessary enforcement measures will be taken to ensure compliance on the ground with the preceding provisions.

(6) This article does not apply to existing buildings or to new construction or renovation for which fully approved permits were issued by the Municipality prior to January 15th, 1997.

12. Infrastructure

a. The Palestinian side shall inform the Israeli side, through the DCL, 48 hours in advance of any anticipated activity regarding infrastructure which may disturb the regular flow of traffic on roads in Area H-2 or which may affect

Christopher's letter to Netanyahu

The following is the text of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu which accompanies the agreement on Hebron:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, I wanted personally to congratulate you on the successful conclusion of the "Protocol Concerning the Redeployment in Hebron." It represents an important step forward in the Oslo peace process and reaffirms my conviction that a just and lasting peace will be established between Israelis and Palestinians in the very near future.

In this connection, I can assure you that it remains the policy of the United States to support and promote full implementation of the Interim Agreement in all of its parts. We intend to continue our efforts to help ensure that all outstanding commitments are carried out by both parties in a cooperative spirit and on the basis of reciprocity.

As part of this process, I have impressed upon Chairman Arafat the imperative need for the Palestinian Authority to make every effort to ensure public order



Warren Christopher (David Rubinger)

and internal security within the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I have stressed to him that effectively carrying out this major responsibility will be a critical foundation for completing implementation of the Interim Agreement, as well as the peace process as a whole.

I wanted you to know that, in this context, I have advised Chairman Arafat of US views on Israel's process of redeploying its forces, designating specified mili-

tary locations and transferring additional powers and responsibilities to the Palestinian Authority. In this regard, I have conveyed our belief that the first phase of further redeployments should take place as soon as possible, and that all three phases of further redeployments should be completed within 12 months from the implementation of the first phase of the further redeployments but no later than mid-1998.

Mr. Prime Minister, you can be assured that the United States' commitment to Israel's security is ironclad and constitutes the fundamental cornerstone of our special relationship. The key element in our approach to peace, including the negotiation and implementation of agreements between Israel and its Arab partners, has always been a recognition of Israel's security requirements.

Moreover, a hallmark of US policy remains our commitment to work cooperatively to seek to meet the security needs that Israel identifies. Finally, I would like to reiterate our position that Israel is entitled to secure and defensible borders, which should be directly negotiated and agreed with its neighbors.

Note for the record

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat met on January 15, 1997, in the presence of US Special Middle East Coordinator Dennis Ross. They requested him to prepare this Note for the Record to summarize what they agreed upon at this meeting. The document reads as follows:

Mutual undertakings

The two leaders agreed that the Oslo peace process must move forward to succeed. Both parties to the Interim Agreement have concerns and obligations. Accordingly, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to implement the Interim Agreement on the basis of reciprocity and, in this context, conveyed the following undertakings to each other:

Israeli responsibilities

The Israeli side reaffirms its commitments to the following measures and principles in accordance with the Interim Agreement:

Issues for implementation:
1. Further redeployment phases
The first phase of further redeployments will be carried out during the first week of March.
2. Prisoner release issues
Prisoner release issues will be dealt with in accordance with the Interim Agreement's provisions and procedures, including Annex VII.

Issues for Negotiation:
3. Outstanding Interim Agreement issues
Negotiations on the following outstanding issues from the Interim Agreement will be immediately resumed. Negotiations on these issues will be conducted in parallel:

- a) Safe passage
- b) Gaza airport
- c) Gaza port
- d) Passages
- e) Economic, financial, civilian and security issues
- f) People-to-people

4. Permanent status negotiations
Permanent status negotiations will be resumed within two months after implementation of the Hebron Protocol.

Palestinian Responsibilities

The Palestinian side reaffirms its commitments to the following measures and principles in accordance with the Interim Agreement:

- 1. Complete the process of revising the Palestinian National Charter
- 2. Fighting terror and preventing violence
a) Strengthening security cooperation
b) Preventing incitement and hostile propaganda, as specified in Article XXII of the Interim Agreement
- c) Combat systematically and effectively terrorist organizations and infrastructure
- d) Apprehension, prosecution and punishment of terrorists
- e) Request for transfer of suspects and defendants will be acted upon in accordance with Article II (7)(f) of Annex IV to the Interim Agreement
- f) Confiscation of illegal firearms
- 3. Size of Palestinian Police will be pursuant to the Interim Agreement.
- 4. Exercise of Palestinian governmental activity, and location of Palestinian governmental offices, will be as specified in the Interim Agreement.

The aforementioned commitments will be dealt with immediately, and in parallel.

Other Issues

Either party is free to raise other issues not specified above related to implementation of the Interim Agreement and obligations of both sides arising from the Interim Agreement.

Prepared by Ambassador Dennis Ross at the request of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Ra'ees Yasser Arafat.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

CAVEAT EMPTORI

The potential perils of medicine to our health

Optalgin is one of the many over-the-counter drugs which has become a household word in this country. The medicine - which comes in capsule, tablet and drop form - is produced and marketed by Teva Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Its active ingredient, dipyrone, functions as a fever reducer and pain reliever. It's the only pill I take when I have one of those four-kids-and-a-dog headaches which mothers can ill afford; it is the medicine I force down my children's throats when their fevers continue to soar in spite of cool baths and recommended doses of Acamol; it's a drug prescribed for a gamut of ills - from back pain to strep-throat side effects.

What most of us may not have realized, myself included, is that dipyrone depletes white blood cells, which are the backbone of the body's immunization system. Indeed, among other warnings listed on the trilingual (Hebrew, Arabic and English) insert of the Optalgin package, is the following: "This medicine may cause agranulocytosis (toxic damage to white blood cells). This reaction, which may rarely occur, is manifested by fatigue or weakness for 2-3 days, followed by fever and sore throat. At the first sign of the appearance of one of these symptoms, which may appear after 1-2 days of treatment, discontinue use of the medicine and refer immediately to your doctor."

When Mrs. X was hospitalized for fear of dehydration - as a result of ulcers in the mouth which prevented her from drinking - blood tests revealed that her white count was dangerously low, and streptococcus level dangerously high. After conducting a battery of tests to locate the problem, hospital staffers were baffled.

When Mrs. X died only days later, hints were made to the family that perhaps the Optalgin she had been taking for chronic back pain was the culprit. If the dipyrone had destroyed her immune system - the theory went - Mrs. X would have been vulnerable to any floating viruses and bacteria. This would explain the ulcers in her mouth, as well as the strep in her system.

Tragically, Mrs. X had been complaining of the symptoms listed on the warning insert quoted above. But doctors and family members alike considered those symptoms to have been caused by her ill health, rather than by the pills she was popping to help alleviate her discomfort.

Chairman of the Division of Medicine at Jerusalem's Hadassah Ein Kerem, Professor Micha Levy, confirmed that dipyrone - which has been in use for the past 80 years - can cause damage leading to a reduction in white blood cells, but denies that the phenomenon warrants banning the drug.

"Fifteen years ago, Israel was one of seven countries which participated in a serious study of the drug to determine its harmful effects," he explained. "The study concluded that dipyrone indeed can cause agranulocytosis (as do many other drugs), but only in one of over a million cases, and only in patients who have particular sensitivity to the drug, regardless of dosage." As a result, according to Levy, while a small number of European countries then followed the American example by removing the drug from pharmacy shelves, Israel continues to sell it over the counter.

Other medicines sold in this country which contain dipyrone are: Novalgine, produced by Hoechst, and distributed by Chemipharm; Phanalgin, produced by Trims; and Dipyrone Syrup, produced by Vitamed.

ON A LIGHTER note, here's a helpful hint for the "electronically challenged," which I picked up from a friend: If the mouse on your computer goes haywire and/or stops working for no apparent reason: unhook it completely, then reattach it. Unless the mouse is broken, this procedure actually gets the elusive rodent running again.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

socialites, one of the Hebrew papers showed an unflattering photograph of a woman who does not have a herd-meatality taste, but whose clothes are very expensive (and usually interesting), and printed the nasty comment that she's the only woman in Israel who can wear a dress that cost a million dollars and make it look as if it cost a million drachmas.

The unfortunate victim of the journalist's barb has lost a lot of weight since she last donned that gown and currently looks good in just about anything she wears.

But like those of us who can't afford to spend anywhere near what she lays out for a dress, she makes the occasional mistake.

It's really much more difficult to find the right ball gown than the right street dress. A ball gown is often the subject of fantasy - something we've dreamt of wearing regardless of whether or not it really suits us. A strapless evening gown, for instance, does very little for a flat-chested woman, but so long as it stays up, it's difficult to talk her into another style if that's what she's been yearning for ever since she bought her first bra.

Similarly, a double cloche skirt over layers of petticoats, though very romantic, looks anything but that on a woman who's broad in the beam unless she happens to have a very slender waistline. Even then, she would do better to wear a skirt with a more slimming effect.

Though money is often a major consideration, the frequency with which the dress will be worn is usually primary. Just how much use can you get out of this dress? The fancier it is, the more difficult it is to disguise it with cleverly chosen accessories, which means that if you mix in the same circles all the time, your dress is going to be brought out of mothballs on maybe three, at most four, occasions.

But if it's a minimalistic dress, extending stark drama rather than frills, flounces, or a metallic brightness, a colored shawl or bolero, a string of beads or some eye-catching drop earrings can make it look different every time.

That of course is one of the main reasons that the little black dress has proved to be all-enchanting.

But once in a while, we want something just a little more stunning, and it's good to know that it's easily accessible.

condition, size 7, NIS 120; Good Housekeeping magazines, NIS 3 each. 02-551-9254.

LEATHER JACKET - biker style, tobacco-colored, never worn, NIS 200; men's sneakers, all-black, Champion, size 8 (US), new, NIS 100. 02-561-1176.

WOMEN'S WINTER COAT - long, burgandy, small size, wool/polyamide blend, never worn, NIS 300. 02-581-0029.

TOASTER OVEN - American, like new, barely used, in original packing, NIS 180. 02-537-8643.

WOMEN'S UPRIGHT BICYCLE - in reasonable condition, NIS 200 maximum. 02-625-4954.

EXERCISE BICYCLE - in good condition. 02-651-1854.

Remember when kiwi, persimmon and even avocado were new and exotic? For those with jaded palates, there's good news ahead. Sooo we'll be savoring a juicy type of guava known o'll now ooly to the Bushmeo of Botswana.

These and a dozen more fruits

land left over after she'd planted the settlement's 3,000 date palms.

"I know I can't save the world," she says, "but at least I'd like to feed it better. I wanted to see what I could make grow on the left-over land."

She started out with "the Biblical stuff - couldn't take the salt."

In 1982, Professor Yossi Mizrahi, a plant physiologist and horticulturalist at Ben-Gurion University's Institute for Applied Research, began bringing Solowey rare saplings to tea. Shortly after that, Tel Aviv University's Arava Institute for Environmental Studies took her on to their teaching staff. Her reputation has spread, and earlier this month the Chinese government invited Solowey, in her capacity as an international expert, to a conference in Kunming on new crops.

"I saw dozens of fruits and vegetables in China that I'd never heard of, and that I want to cultivate here," she says. "The Chinese, for their part, were fascinated."

In the spring, Solowey will be sowing 700 merula plants (the Botswana guavas), and hopes to harvest her first crop in four years time. "Merula is especially well suited to the desert because it needs very little water," she says.

"We'll sell it for its wonderful juice, for marmalade, and for flavoring, but not as a fruit. Its skin tastes like plastic and its flesh is slimy."

Merula is not only of commercial value, Solowey suspects, but is also a tool for land reclamation. Through her large and flourishing organic citrus orchard, she's demonstrating that "organic citrus have more resistance to pests, and are also cheaper: Fertilizers and pesticides cost money, and we haven't yet found a pesticide that doesn't get into the fruit."

And she is also guarding six endangered species of desert trees that the regional council has urged her to uproot as uneconomical.

"Endangered species aren't my thing," she says. "But I'm looking after them until I find someone to take them on. It takes God a long time to make a tree, and I'm not going to kill it because it's not commercial."

Solowey has, she says, "a personal relationship with each of her trees." When she first came to Keturah in 1974, four months after it was founded, "the kibbutz had only 13 trees, all of them sick. I realized this was the place in the world that needed me most."

Equipped with the experience of a childhood spent on her grandfather's farm in Modesto, California, and North American degrees in commercial horticulture and land reclamation, Solowey has since planted over 9,000 trees on Keturah, whose fruit is sold all over the world. In her own experimental orchard, every tree has its own computer file and number. "If I lose even one, I know why," she says. As it is, 90 percent of them survive.

"People on the kibbutz think I'm crazy," she says, "but they no longer run the other way when they see me coming with new fruits to taste."

A new line of 'exotic' fruits are being developed on Kibbutz Keturah in the Negev. (Sarkit Urdy)

Jews - so few in number that in China we'd be a protected minority - have made so disproportionate an impact on the world."

Solowey intends to extend that impact. After 13 years of planting, testing, and hybridizing different varieties of a cactus fruit called pitahaya (it took eight

years just to sprout laboratory seedlings), she is going commercial. Some 5,000 of the saplings she's developed have been planted on Keturah, and the kibbutz hopes to have them on the market by fall 1997.

"Pitahaya is an ideal dessert," says Solowey. "It looks beautiful, it's high in vitamin C, and although its taste is rich, it has almost no calories."

Next for the market is the Moroccan argania, whose outs produce "the best and healthiest salad oil in the world," according to Solowey, "both for its taste and because its long-chain fatty acids actually lower cholesterol levels in the body." Solowey has just planted the world's first industrial argania orchard, comprising 800 plants, and expects the first crop in three years' time.

Will Teach French - in exchange for Hebrew lessons. Jerusalem/Rishon/Tel Aviv. 02-564-1711.

FLAIR

Informally formal

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Formal wear is not as rare in Israel today as it was only a decade ago. There was never actually a time when one couldn't get a ball gown in Israel, but the choice was minuscule and if one wanted something really special it was almost impossible to find it on the rack.

A mini expedition to the northern end of Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street or to Kikar Hamadina reveals sufficient elegance and variety to satisfy a whole ballroom full of women. But most of these gorgeous creations cost over NIS 3,000.

Knock-offs in less opulent fabrics and at prices which are much more affordable can be found in Tel Aviv's Allenby Street. The window displays here lack the class of North Tel Aviv, and the number of models crowded into a small space do a disservice to the dresses themselves.

What is worth bearing in mind when shopping for an evening dress is that how the dress looks in the window is of less importance than how the dress looks on you.

In a "that was the year that" review of the stylishness of Israeli

socialites, one of the Hebrew papers showed an unflattering photograph of a woman who does not have a herd-meatality taste, but whose clothes are very expensive (and usually interesting), and printed the nasty comment that she's the only woman in Israel who can wear a dress that cost a million dollars and make it look as if it cost a million drachmas.

The unfortunate victim of the journalist's barb has lost a lot of weight since she last donned that gown and currently looks good in just about anything she wears.

But like those of us who can't afford to spend anywhere near what she lays out for a dress, she makes the occasional mistake.

It's really much more difficult to find the right ball gown than the right street dress. A ball gown is often the subject of fantasy - something we've dreamt of wearing regardless of whether or not it really suits us. A strapless evening gown, for instance, does very little for a flat-chested woman, but so long as it stays up, it's difficult to talk her into another style if that's what she's been yearning for ever since she bought her first bra.

Similarly, a double cloche skirt over layers of petticoats, though very romantic, looks anything but that on a woman who's broad in the beam unless she happens to have a very slender waistline. Even then, she would do better to wear a skirt with a more slimming effect.

Though money is often a major consideration, the frequency with which the dress will be worn is usually primary. Just how much use can you get out of this dress? The fancier it is, the more difficult it is to disguise it with cleverly chosen accessories, which means that if you mix in the same circles all the time, your dress is going to be brought out of mothballs on maybe three, at most four, occasions.

But if it's a minimalistic dress, extending stark drama rather than frills, flounces, or a metallic brightness, a colored shawl or bolero, a string of beads or some eye-catching drop earrings can make it look different every time.

That of course is one of the main reasons that the little black dress has proved to be all-enchanting.

But once in a while, we want something just a little more stunning, and it's good to know that it's easily accessible.

condition, size 7, NIS 120; Good Housekeeping magazines, NIS 3 each. 02-551-9254.

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DEAR RUTHIE

Tricolor passion evades husband

By RUTHIE BLOOM

Dear Ruthie,

In the past few months, my wife has developed a sudden passion for anything French. She watches French movies, listens to French music, and is planning a trip to Paris with a woman friend.

A girl who grew up in Haifa (with yekke parents), she doesn't exactly come by her Francophilia naturally. So I tease her about it. This gets her furious, though I really don't mean anything by it.

Last week, she delicately tried to suggest that we rent a house in France during the summer - which we'll be able to afford, according to her, by renting out our apartment. Normally, when we go abroad, it is to visit my family in the States. I don't mind going to Europe for a short vacation, but a whole summer is out of the question. When I told her this, she said that maybe she'd just go without me.

I don't know what's gotten into her. I mean, it's clear that she doesn't care that France is causing us marital problems. I just don't understand why a place she's never even been to could be more important to her than our marriage. Maybe you could enlighten me.

French Fried, Rishon LeZion

Dear French Fried,

It may, indeed, be clear that the two of you are having marital problems; yet it is not at all clear that they originated at the Eiffel Tower.

Your wife's sudden passion for a foreign country is probably a symptom of a greater problem, rather than the cause. What the "greater problem" is - in terms of your life together - is something both of you must examine. What this particular symptom points to, however, is easier to pinpoint.

Exaggerated attraction to a foreign culture usually indicates a desire for "metamorphosis." If your wife harbors such a desire, she is suffering no small degree of internal strife. Though you cannot be to blame for such strife, you may be contributing to it in some way - or exacerbating it. This may be why she is touchy about your teasing, and why you might try easing up on the teasing, and investing more energy into trying to understand what she is going through right now.

The question of why France should be the target of her focus also needs examining. The simple explanation - albeit most painful to acknowledge - could be that another man (with a French passport) is involved. A far more complex explanation might lie in the question of what France symbolizes for your wife. As when interpreting dreams, "translating" the symbols is the best way to decipher the message behind them.

Whatever the underlying cause of your marital problems, however, the "external" reality is that you and your wife are not communicating in the same language. Without the two of you attempting first to rectify this particular problem, your wife may as well be speaking in French.

Dear Ruthie,

My sister lives with her husband and seven children in Jerusalem. I will be coming to Israel to visit them next month. My problem is: How can I bring them presents, without going broke? (Even if I could afford it, I wouldn't know where to begin selecting.) Can you help me find a solution?

Going for Broke, New Jersey, USA

Dear G for B,

One possibility is buying a single gift for the entire family, which can be appreciated by children and parents alike. Examples of this kind of present are: a popcorn machine, a cotton-candy maker, a waffle iron, or - if junk-food preparation is not your sister's ship - a video camera.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

By JAY LEVINSON

On January 1, the eastern Jerusalem daily newspaper *An-Nahar* printed its last issue.

To most Israelis the closing of yet another Arabic-language newspaper was of little importance, yet no statement could be so far from the truth. This event was the symbol of wide-ranging political implications.

An-Nahar was established as a weekly by its editor, Othman Al-Hallaq, and its publisher, Isam Al-Anani, in March 1986. The political perspective of the paper was clear - born in the wake of *Al-Quds* and its editor, Mahmoud Abu Zafaf, moving away from a pro-Jordanian stance, *An-Nahar* was designed to fill the pro-Jordanian void. The line was clear, running from the logo of the newspaper featuring Petra, to the choice of editorial material. An early serial, for example, was a translation from English into Arabic of a book about Jordan written by the Crown Prince.

The newspaper had another objective. Al-Hallaq, a successful businessman in a number of ventures, yearned for a political career. He hoped that *An-Nahar* would catapult him into the political arena just as Hana Simora did with *Al-Fajr*.

After a year as a weekly, *An-Nahar* started, in April 1987, issuing daily editions from its small offices on the upper floor of the old Red Crescent Building in the back of the Rockefeller Museum. Throughout the history of the paper, from early growing pains to the cra of personnel cuts before closing, the emphasis was on quality.

But the period of growth at *An-Nahar* was short-lived. With the onset of the intifada and the Jordanian relinquishment of the West Bank, the fortunes of the newspaper declined.

The newspaper was viewed as not only pro-Jordanian, but, as a consequence, anti-PLO. Readership fell, advertisements



As the year began, the eastern Jerusalem daily newspaper *An-Nahar* printed its last issue. While many papers have died, this passing is rich with political implications. (Stein/Haran)

run with PLO subsidies and clearly adhering to the organization's political line. Only the future will tell if the Palestinian Authority will be as liberal with dissenting editorial opinion as Israel has been.

The passing of *An-Nahar* marks not only the death of a newspaper, it also marks the final eulogy for the so-called "Jordanian Option."

Walking a difficult tightrope

Nechemia Meyers reports on a Palestinian journalist who writes as openly about PA rights abuses as he does about Israel



Toahmeh: His first allegiance is to the truth. (Courtesy of the newspaper *Yerushalayim*)

When 32-year-old journalist Khaled Abu Toahmeh was married some time ago in Jerusalem, both Ehud Olmert, the city's right-wing mayor, and alumni from Fatah's crack Force 17 unit were on hand to celebrate the event.

Olmert was there because Khaled's father, Jamil Abu Toahmeh, heads the municipality's Education Department in eastern Jerusalem, and the Force 17 men came because most Palestinian officials respect him (though they don't always like what he writes).

A handsome, soft-spoken young man who calls himself a "Palestinian intellectual," Khaled has managed - sometimes with the greatest of difficulty - to remain on reasonably good terms with both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict during his career as a journalist, which began in 1980 soon after his graduation from the Anglican High School in Jerusalem and in parallel to his studies at the Hebrew University.

He was initially employed by the Arabic-language service of the Israel Television where, after a period monitoring Arab TV stations in the territories and responding in the editor's office to news broadcast. During that same period, Khaled worked as a free-lance for *al-Fajr*, an eastern Jerusalem newspaper which served as a major PLO mouthpiece in the '80s.

The fact that *al-Fajr* agreed to use his stories indicates that Arafat and company had decided that Khaled was "clean" and this helped him gain access to Palestinian who weren't ready to talk to other reporters. So

Palestinian Authority security chief Jibril Rajoub to declare, albeit privately, that Khaled would be sitting in one of their jails had he not been an Israeli citizen.

But Khaled is still better off in this respect than Bassem Eid, who went from exposing human rights abuses in Israel to reporting similar abuses in areas controlled by the PA. And instead of responding to the charges, Rajoub, speaking on Israel TV, called Eid "an Israeli collaborator," which, Khaled says, is the equivalent to putting out a contract on him.

In such circumstances, it takes considerable guts for Khaled to say that the Palestinian Authority "has no respect for its own press," which enjoys less freedom than it did under the Israelis, just wouldn't shut down a paper just because it didn't put someone's picture on the front page.

It is for this reason, he notes, that Palestinians who have complaints against the PA come to him with their stories, because papers on the other side wouldn't dare touch them. And by the same token, Khaled would not - under present circumstances - embark upon a journalistic career in the Palestinian media.

Khaled speaks openly about "the enormous corruption, bribery and nepotism in Palestinian areas." He cites the fact that the director-general of an important ministry is the minister's son, while another of his sons runs a firm that supplies the

ministry with computer services. And in Ramallah, he adds, you can't build a house or even bring in cement without giving a cut to senior Palestinian officials, "who claim to be contractors and engineers."

Overall, Khaled declares, "you never know who spends public money and on what it is spent. As a result, Palestinians, in private conversations, are apt to talk about their present rulers as 'the Mafia.'"

As Khaled sees it, this lack of democratic safeguards and accountability constitute a greater threat to the future of the Palestinian people than Islamic fundamentalism, which, he claims, is not particularly strong among them. When asked why the foreign press writes so little about this corruption, Khaled suggests that the correspondents are simply anxious "to remain on good terms with the Palestinian Authority."

This is not to say that Khaled is an admirer of the Netanyahu government, whose policies, he says, have convinced the Palestinians that the Israelis don't want an equitable settlement. "Had the Oslo agreements been fulfilled, a Palestinian state established and the refugees given generous compensation," he says, "I think that there would have been peace for at least the next century, particularly since what happened in Kuwait has convinced the Palestinians that the international community won't allow any nation to disappear from the face of the earth."

INFANTICIDE

Continued from Page 1

Filon and Prof. Charles Greenblatt of the faculties of medicine and dental medicine in Jerusalem, with Prof. Lawrence Stager of Harvard University in Boston.

The team analyzed some 100 infant skeletons found in an ancient "gutter" under a bathhouse in an archeological dig in Ashkelon, which in ancient times was a major seaport. The bathhouse was built over earlier Roman villas, where lamps decorated with erotic images had previously been found. The Greek inscription "Enter, enjoy and..." was discovered in the bathhouse, indicating that it could easily have served as a brothel, a common facility in the Roman Empire.

Oppenheim said that the ancient street on which the villa was located was apparently Ashkelon's "red light district." There is no evidence that Jews lived there at that time, said Oppenheim. "As there is no sign of synagogues from that era,"

about this corruption, Khaled suggests that the correspondents are simply anxious "to remain on good terms with the Palestinian Authority."

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Shares up on CPI optimism

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



Shares advanced on investor optimism that the consumer price index would come in near expectations and prompt the central bank to cut interest rates, as well as on news of the signing of the Hebron accord early yesterday morning.

After the market closed, the government reported that the December rise in the CPI was 0.8 percent. Most forecasts were for a rise of 0.6% or 0.7%.

Leading stocks higher were holding company Koor and its Makhteshim subsidiary, Teva, Akeron, and Bank Hapoalim.

The Two-Sided Index advanced 1.51% to 237.33, while the Maof Index tacked on 1.42% to 245.04. Stocks remained near three-year highs.

Shares of Bank Hapoalim were up 2%, Koor subsidiary Tadran added 1.75%, and Bezeq slipped 0.5%.

On the currency market, the dollar flirted with a 30-month high against the German currency of 1.60 marks and a 46-month peak of 117.48 yen before slipping back.

Lower at 6,726.88 after posting four consecutive record highs. The Nasdaq Composite index was off 12.66 at 1,533.70.

On NY's corn futures market, the Dow Jones industrial average closed 35.41 points lower.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table of Tel Aviv stocks with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and Market. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and Morning.

Key Representative Rates

Table of key representative rates including US Dollar, Sterling, and Mark.

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrials, DJ Total, NYSE Composite, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, etc.

Israeli stocks in US

Table of Israeli stocks in US including AMEX, NYSE, etc.

AG Associates

Table of AG Associates stocks including AG, AGP, etc.

NEW MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table of dollar crossrates including Pound, DM, Franc, etc.

Libor rates

Table of Libor rates for various terms and currencies.

Foreign financial data courtesy of Comstock Trading Ltd.

Table of foreign financial data including Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds.

NEW COMMODITIES

US commodities

Table of US commodities including Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, etc.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metals including Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures including Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

London metal fixes

Table of London metal fixes including Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

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Large table of international stock prices with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and Market. Includes sections for NEW YORK, EUROPE, ASIA, and AMERICAS.

Eurobourses, dollar slip

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Key European stock markets, having followed Wall Street's overnight cue to scale new peaks yesterday morning, ran out of steam in the afternoon as shares dropped in New York and concern over interest rates returned.

Gold, in contrast, hit 3 1/2-year lows below \$352 after investment funds took flight but then revived to top \$354 and trim its losses amid buying on NY's corn futures market.

TERMS

Continued from Page 1

The Oslo II pullback to settlements, borders and "specified military locations."

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS25.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS25.08 per line, including VAT, per month.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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EMERGENCY PHARMACIES: Jerusalem: Hipercol, 24 Kertel Nesharim, 622-2368; Baitam, Seish-e, 621-2915; Sifhat Shabat, Road, 621-0108; Dar Aldawa, Harof's Gate, 625-2058.

NEWS

in brief

Palestinian man shot during chase

A 30-year-old Sur Baher man was shot dead yesterday morning by police during a chase after suspected car thieves.

Arab local council heads end strike

After holding a five-week sit-in opposite the Prime Minister's Office, Arab local authority heads finally reached an agreement yesterday with Interior Minister Eli Shussan on equalizing their budgets with Jewish localities and canceling their accumulated debts.

Remand extended for suspected kid killer

The remand of Lena Tzioni, 31, who is suspected of killing her newborn daughter, was extended for 10 days yesterday by Hadera Magistrate's Court.

Jurists gather to bid Justice Tal goodbye

Fourteen Supreme Court justices gathered in the court's main courtroom yesterday for a group farewell picture with Justice Tsvi Tal, who was retiring.

3 hospitals on emergency schedules today

Wolfson Hospital in Holon, Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin and Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon will be on an emergency schedule for 24 hours starting at 7 a.m. today.

Wiretapping affair state's witness testifies

State's witness Ya'acov Tsur gave his first testimony yesterday in the media wiretapping case, beginning in the trial of private investigator Ze'ev Laufer in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

Poland discussing restitution for seized Jewish property

By BATSHEVA TSUR



Polish Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz visits the Warsaw section in the Valley of Communities at Yad Vashem yesterday.

Poland's parliament, the Sejm, will wind up discussions in two committees next week on a bill for restitution for Jewish properties seized during the Holocaust.

"The bill will refer to communal Jewish properties throughout Poland," Polish Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz told The Jerusalem Post last night.

There were Jewish synagogues, schools, hospitals and other public buildings scattered throughout Poland at the outbreak of World War II.

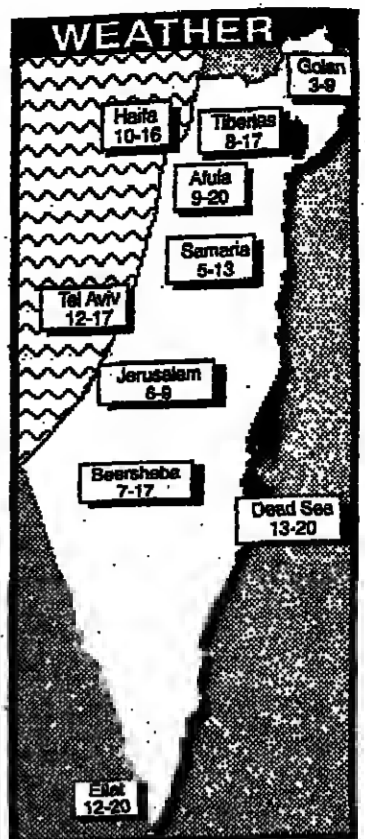
Cimoszewicz said that representatives of world Jewry would have a say as to how the compensation would be distributed since they will participate in a foundation to be set up.

During a visit to Yad Vashem earlier in the day, the Polish premier pointed out that his country had been the first in the world to condemn the moral and legal injustice of the transfer to Swiss banks of Polish Jewish assets.

But Cimoszewicz was less upbeat regarding compensation for private properties in Poland.

"The subject has been debated in the parliament for six or seven years now," he said.

President Ezer Weizman yesterday morning hosted Cimoszewicz at Beit Hanassi. The Polish guest told the president that his country was expanding economically at a greater rate than other countries in eastern Europe and that he hoped to see stronger economic ties with Israel.



Forecast: Scattered showers in most parts of the country accompanied by occasional thunderstorms. Slight fall in temperatures. Snow will fall on the Hermon.

Table titled 'AROUND THE WORLD' showing weather forecasts for various cities. Columns include City, Low, High, and Description. Cities listed include Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Beijing, Buenos Aires, Geneva, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, Moscow, New York, Paris, Rome, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, Warsaw, and Zurich.

Winning cards In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the seven of spades, the queen of hearts, the queen of diamonds and the jack of clubs.

Wintry weather brightens Hermon staffers' faces

By DAVID RUDGE

Smiles replaced anxious frowns on the faces of staff at the Mt. Hermon ski center yesterday with the first real snowfall of the winter.

The sunshine that has kept the beaches packed for the past two months has proved a bane for the ski center, as well as the tourism trade generally in the North.

"It's been like summer up here and as a result we haven't had any visitors whatsoever," said Eli Sagron, manager of the Mt. Hermon ski center.

The company which runs the site is owned by the 40 families who compose the entire population of Moshav Neve Ativ, on the slope of Mt. Hermon. The hotels and guest houses on the moshav have also been empty.

Shamir warns Ch. 1 about broadcasting Bus 300 drama

By NICHAL YUDELMAN

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir warned Channel 1 before the broadcast of the first part of the Bus 300 series last night that he might take legal action if the drama doesn't present his part in the affair in a balanced way.

In a letter sent to Channel 1 via attorney Eitan Haber, Shamir said he learned from various media publications that the drama series might cause him injustice.

He warned that if this happened, he reserves the right to take action. The series dramatizes the Bus 300 affair, in which the General Security Service beat to death two terrorists who were taken captive after they hijacked a bus on April 12, 1984.

GSS head Avraham Shalom and other GSS seniors were involved in a cover-up of the incident, which was exposed by the Zorea Commission.

State Inquiry Commission. Shalom insists on Shamir's full involvement in the affair.

But Shamir, who was interviewed by Dan Margalit on Channel 1's Popolitika on Monday, said Shalom had lied to him about the affair and that he knew nothing of the cover-up or of the GSS seniors lies to the Zorea Commission.

Television director-general Yair Stern said last night he believes "Shamir's fears are exaggerated, since the series does not present him in the way he suspects. The one who comes out bad from the story is Shalom, who tried to build himself a defense line based on lies and at the end paid the price for it."

Stern noted that the series is a drama. "But altogether the series is quite close to reality and presents the picture more or less as things happened."

Swiss apology for 'blackmail' remark opens way for renewed talks

By BATSHEVA TSUR

"The way has been reopened to negotiations with the Swiss banks," Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said yesterday after learning that former Swiss president Jean-Pascal Delamuraz had publicly apologized for his remarks about the Jews.

"I am very sorry that I offended your feelings as well as those of many other people concerned, particularly those of the Jewish community at large," said Delamuraz in a letter to WIC President Edgar Broffman.

Burg said he was thankful that the former president (who is currently economics minister) had found fit to retract his remarks about requests for compensation being "blackmail."

"For a prolonged period, we have been partners to one of the most just struggles that humanity has known in the second half of the 20 century," Burg said. "It has again been proven that standing firm when it comes to elevated moral principles, leads to victory."

said, it is time to resume contacts with the Swiss authorities and banks on the issue of the dormant accounts that have not been returned to their rightful owners.

In a related move, Burg also wrote to the president of the Union Bank of Switzerland.

"There have been reports in the Israeli media of the existence of secret disks at UBS which contain details of Jewish owners of bank accounts worth tens of millions of dollars," Burg wrote. "It must be clear to you, sir, that if these reports are indeed founded, this will have significance of the first order and severe moral implications on this bank's activities and those of the Swiss banking system in general. I am convinced that you, sir, share my view that it does not behoove a banking system to put its hands on monies which were attained unfairly, illegally and through theft from those murdered."

Recalling that another former Swiss president, Caspar Villiger, and the Swiss Banking Union had come out with a statement that "not one Franc" would remain in the wrong

hands, Burg called on the UBS head to open up all his books immediately to public scrutiny.

Liav Collins adds: An information center to collect material to be used in the investigation of the Holocaust-era funds in Swiss banks was opened in the Knesset yesterday. The center is also collecting material regarding assets missing since World War II in other European banks.

"The criminal investigation against the Swiss banking union (UBS) for destroying documents will speed up the discovery of the tragic truth of our people," said MK Avraham Herschson (Likud) chairman of the Knesset subcommittee for restoring Jewish property.

"The Germans murdered, the Swiss inherited and the world kept silent."

He praised Polish Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz for stating his willingness to return Jewish property found in his country to Jewish communities.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon welcomed the apology by Delamuraz.

Yeltsin must rest to stop pneumonia deteriorating

By PHILIPPA FLETCHER

MOSCOW (Reuters)-Russian President Boris Yeltsin is recovering from a serious bout of pneumonia but must stay in the hospital for the rest of the week because of the risk of complications, the chief Kremlin doctor said yesterday.

"I should say that this is a fairly serious illness, which of course brings with it a whole range of possible complications," said Sergei Mironov, who told reporters last Friday that Yeltsin would leave the hospital early this week.

He said at a news conference that Yeltsin's condition had "stabilized considerably" but that the 65-year-old president, who had initially insisted on only three days in the hospital, had been persuaded he needed more time there.

Yeltsin was working for short periods, but Mironov said he should take it easy.

"Of course we try to limit his workload because the illness he now has is quite treacherous," he said.

The news sent Russian debt prices to their lowest for a

month. Traders said the market would remain volatile until more was known about Yeltsin's illness, which comes on top of heart problems which kept him from the Kremlin for six months.

Mironov said Yeltsin's pneumonia stemmed from a heavy cold caught after a visit to the banya, the traditional steam bath which Yeltsin loves.

As he gave his latest update, opposition politicians were stepping up efforts to oust Yeltsin on health grounds.

The communists, still his main sparring partners five years after the Soviet Union broke up, said Yeltsin was unable to exercise power and the country was in deep crisis.

Communist deputy Viktor Ilyukhin, who heads the Duma's security committee, said he would press for a parliamentary vote tomorrow to force Yeltsin out for health reasons, even though legal experts said such a vote would have no legal force.

"We deputies cannot ignore the public's worry," Gennady Seleznyov, the communist chairman of the opposition-dom-

inated lower house of parliament, told the chamber.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov said his party, the highest in the lower house, would decide today whether to support moves to force Yeltsin from office.

The president last year worked four months - only during the election campaign - and on the whole he didn't focus on government affairs but on promises," Zyuganov, who lost to Yeltsin in last July's presidential election, told reporters. "For any citizen of the country it raises the question: 'Why isn't there any leadership in the country?'"

The Russian constitution is vague on removing an ailing head of state, saying only that the president "ceases his functions" if his health is too weak for him to remain in office.

It does not specify who decides on a move which has such far-reaching implications and Yeltsin's chief of staff dismissed the efforts to remove him as a "political farce."

Yeltsin, who turns 66 on February 1, has been in Moscow's elite Central Clinical Hospital since January 8.

(Reuters)

Peruvian terrorists rule out 'executing' hostages

LIMA (Reuters) - Marxist terrorists in Lima pledged yesterday they would not "execute" any of their 74 hostages but warned that the deadlock in negotiations was pushing the crisis towards a violent end.

"It is not in our minds to carry

out executions, nor to give any ultimatums," a spokesman for the terrorists, who identified himself as Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) leader Nestor Cerna Cartolini, said in a radio conversation with foreign news media monitored by Reuters.

"We have never spoken of executions," he added.

But Cerna also said that without tangible progress in negotiations, the crisis was "being pushed towards a military end" where the government would take responsibility for any injury to hostages in a

possible storming of the residence.

"The government proposes a peaceful solution but at the same time says it does not have anything to negotiate with us," Cerna added.

In a step towards possible negotiations, Cerna said the group has accepted in principle the idea of a

"guarantor" commission proposed by the government to oversee talks.

"In what the government is proposing, they are talking about holding (negotiations) in a suitable atmosphere. We will try to do this as far as the circumstances permit," Cerna said.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. It includes the text 'International connections', 'AT&T', 'accabi TA over hero 87-70', 'IDF', 'Knesset', 'Hebron', and 'Post treatments'. At the bottom, there is a small table with prices for 'Post treatments'.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.